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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the arraignment of several individuals on multiple federal charges arising from the vicious July 7, 2000, home invasion, robbery, car jacking and murder of Francis M. Bailey in Kinsale, Virginia.

Lajuan Joesa Davis, age 23; Vernell Lee, age 42; James McCray, age 45; and Robert Tyson, age 29; all of Baltimore, Maryland, were indicted on July 6, 2005, by a federal grand jury in Richmond, Virginia. Davis was charged with conspiracy to commit flight to avoid prosecution, carjacking, use of a firearm in a crime of violence, interstate transportation of stolen property, interstate transportation of a stolen automobile, interstate transportation of a stolen shotgun, possession of firearm by drug user, obstruction of justice, interstate travel to promote illegal activity and to distribute proceeds of illegal activity, bank fraud, and wire fraud. If convicted of these charges, Davis faces a term of imprisonment of life and a fine of \$5,000,000.

Lee and McCray are both charged with being an accessory to murder after the fact, conspiracy to commit flight to avoid prosecution, and misprision of a felony. If convicted of these offenses, they both face a maximum term of imprisonment of 18 years and a fine of \$625,000.

Tyson is charged with conspiracy, bank fraud, and wire fraud. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 65 years and a fine of \$2,250,000 if convicted of these offenses.

The trial of all four defendants is scheduled to begin on December 12, 2005, before U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson. It is anticipated that the trial will last one week.

As charged in the indictment, on June 30, 2000, Davis and another person robbed and murdered Sean Powell, a Baltimore cab driver. Following that murder, the two learned that the Baltimore Police Department had warrants for them. On July 6, 2000, it is alleged, with the assistance of defendants Lee and McCray, they fled to the vacant home of one of Lee's relatives, located in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The following day, they decided to return to Baltimore; however, they did not have transportation.

According to the indictment, that evening, Davis and an associate stole a single barrel .12 gauge shotgun from a relative of the associate. They then went to Mr. Bailey's nearby residence

for the purpose of stealing Mr. Bailey's vehicle. After entering Mr. Bailey's house, they stole his wallet, car keys, and PIN number for his ATM/debit card. Then, fearing that Mr. Bailey would report them to the police before they made it back to Baltimore, they took Mr. Bailey out of the house into a field where they shot and killed him.

Davis and his accomplice then allegedly took Mr. Bailey's car and drove back to Baltimore, destroying the car by arson once there. With defendant Tyson, it is alleged, they then used Mr. Bailey's ATM/debit card multiple times.

On October 11, 2001, Davis pled guilty in Maryland state court to second degree murder for his involvement in the murder of Sean Powell, the cab driver, and was sentenced to 15 years. In addition, on May 28, 2003, he pled guilty in Virginia to grand larceny in connection with the theft of property from Francis Bailey. He was sentenced to 15 years on that charge.

Mr. McNulty said, "This case is very disturbing. These defendants murdered an innocent victim because they needed his vehicle. The interests of justice compel us to vigorously prosecute these defendants."

Also announcing the indictment are Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Richmond Resident Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Dean Atkins, Westmoreland County Commonwealth's Attorney; Charles W. Jackson, Westmoreland County Sheriff; and Wayne Middleton, Nothumberland County Sheriff.

Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller is prosecuting the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.